



university of
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 and social sciences

PsyCorona Study



The psychological impact of
 COVID-19: a multi-country
 study

<https://psycorona.org>

How Does One Study a Pandemic in Real-Time?

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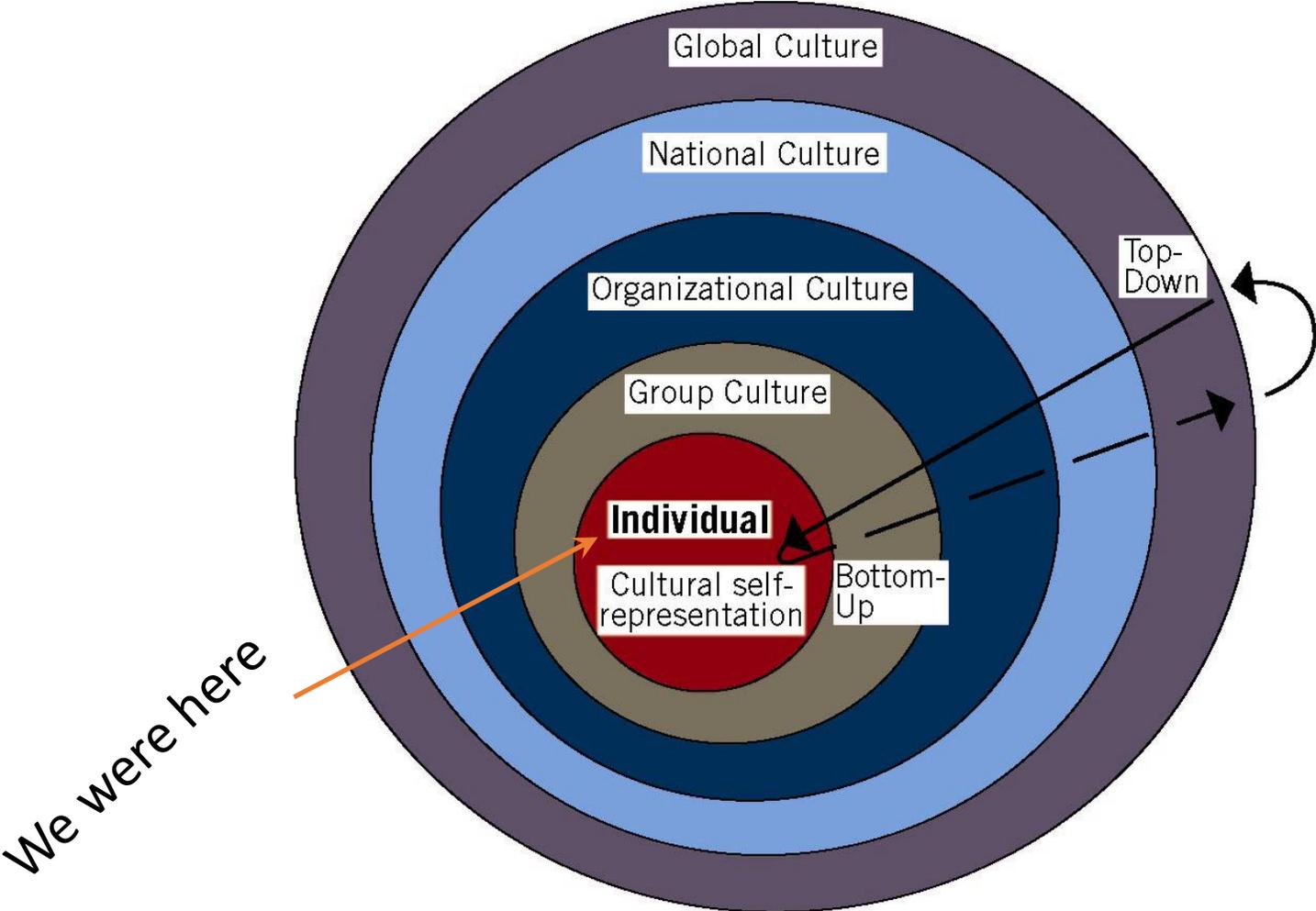
On behalf of the PsyCorona Collaboration

How can academics engage in crisis response?

Starting point for COVID-19:

- Not much data – the last comparable event was in 1918.
- Not clear which psychological concepts are most relevant
- **Research objective:** Rapidly distill the *most important* predictors of self-reported compliance with WHO guidelines (social distancing, hygiene).

Another problem: Pandemic psychology is a multilevel science.

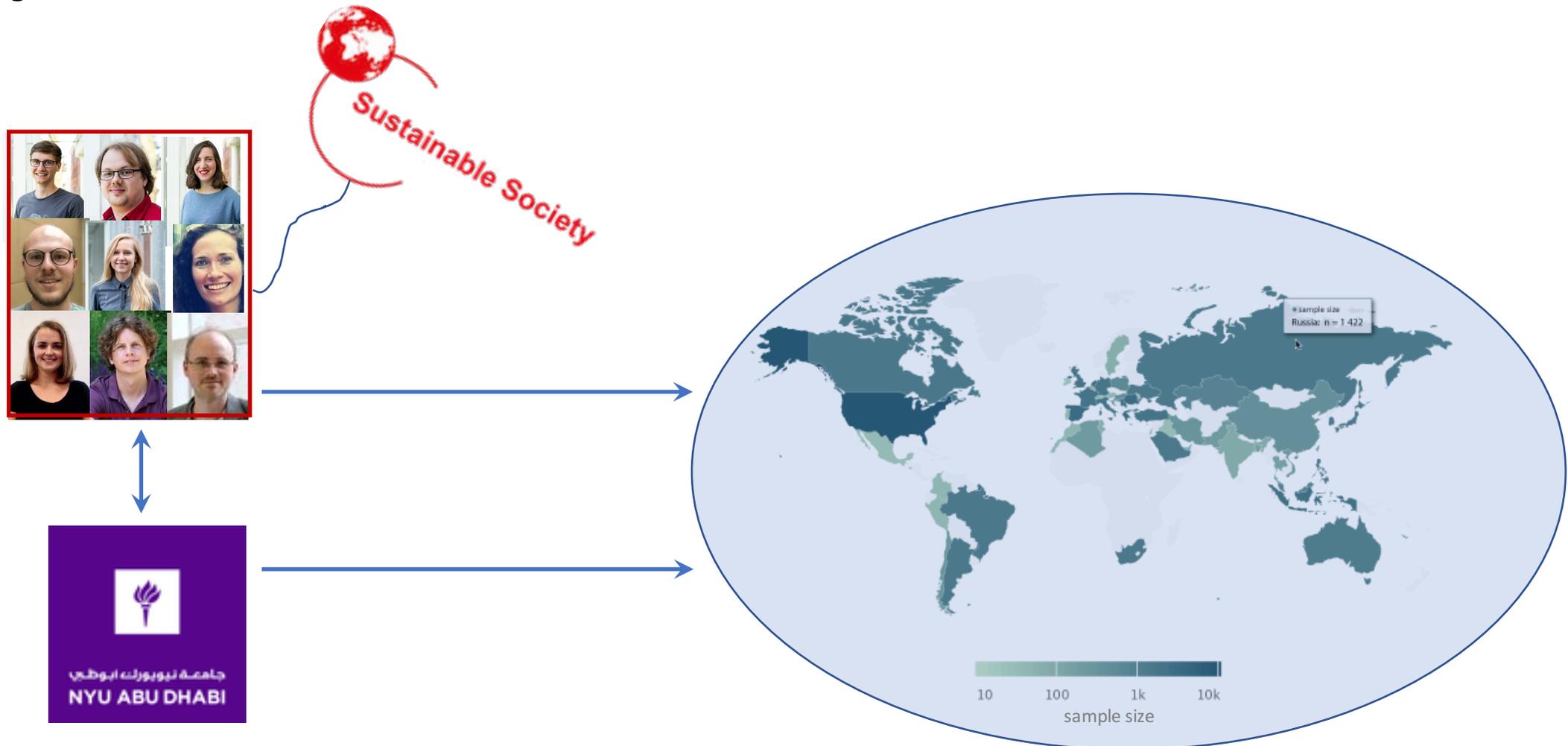


Approach:

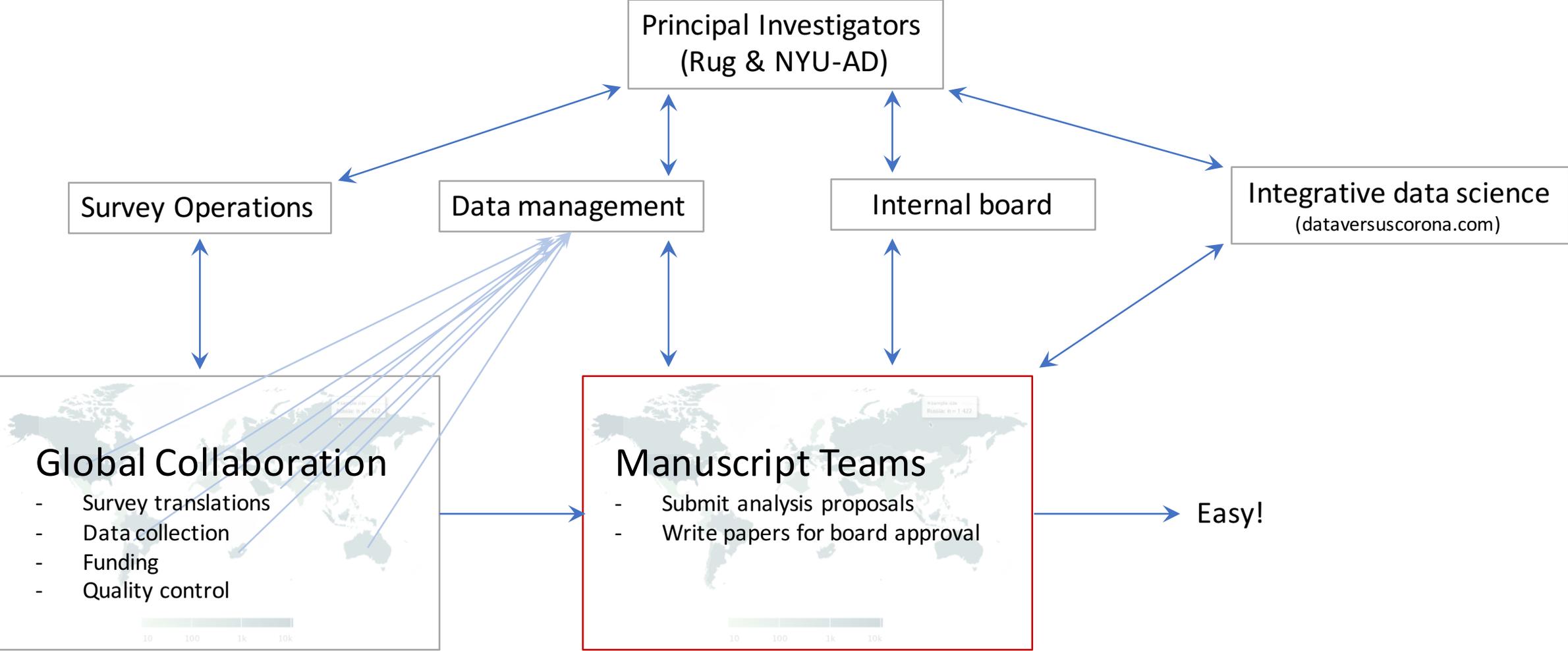
Phase 1: Cross-cultural psychological survey

Phase 2: Longitudinal follow-ups

Phase 3: Integrative data science



Organizational model:



What are the *most important* indicator of compliance with WHO guidelines?

$N = 56,072$

Input variables:

85 survey variables

- *personal factors (e.g., wellbeing, job insecurity)*
- *social attitudes, norms, and beliefs*
- *virus-relevant concerns*

+30 database variables

Outcome:

To minimize my chances of suffering from coronavirus, I...

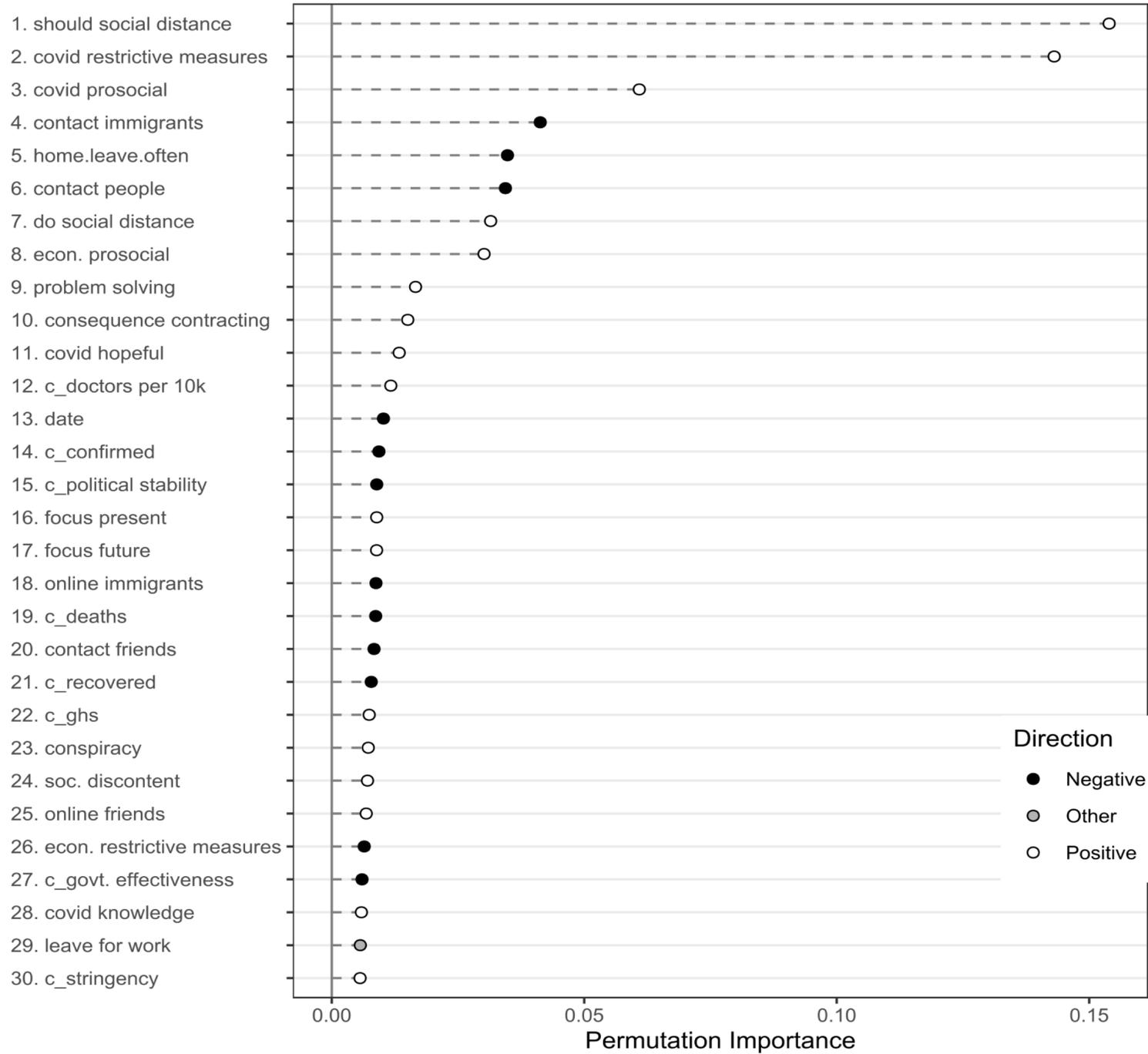
...wash my hands more often

...avoid crowded spaces

...put myself in quarantine/self-isolate

[each rated: -3: strongly disagree to +3: strongly agree, $M = 2.20$, $SD = 1.00$ $\alpha = .75$]

Database	Description
1. Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE).	Number of confirmed COVID-19 infections, deaths, and recoveries by date per country.
2. Global Health Security (GHS) Index	Country-level ratings of pandemic preparedness and general health security.
3. World Health Organization (WHO) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Country-level health care resources and health infrastructure.
4. World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)	Per-country data on aggregate ratings of: Voice and accountability, regulatory quality, political stability and absence of violence, rule of law, government effectiveness, and control of corruption.
5. Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	Governmental responses and policies with respect to COVID-19 by date per country.



How does one study a pandemic in real-time?

- Practical reality was much worse than described.
- Scientific gains:
 - Learn about pandemic psychology while it is happening
 - Create a psychological database for future reuse
 - A test case in rapid response research



Max Agostini



Ben Gützkow



Elissa El Khawli



Jannis Kreienkamp



Anne Margit Reitsema



	Variable	Brief description
1	Should social distance	Injunctive norm (Right now, people in my area..."-... <u>should</u> self-isolate and engage in social distancing.")
2	Covid restrictive measures	Support for behavioral mandates (3 items: mandatory quarantines, mandatory vaccinations, report people suspected to be infected with COVID-19)
3	Covid prosocial	Willingness to make personal sacrifices to protect vulnerable groups from the coronavirus (4 items)
4	Contact immigrants	Days of in-person (face-to-face) contact with immigrants
5	Home.leave.often	How many days in the last week did you leave your home?
6	Contact people	Days of in-person (face-to-face) contact with other people in general
7	Do social distance	Descriptive norm (Right now, people in my area..."-... <u>do</u> self-isolate and engage in social distancing.")
8	Econ prosocial	Pro-social willingness to protect vulnerable groups from economic consequences of the coronavirus (3 items)
9	Problem solving	Problem-focused coping style (3 items)
10	Consequence contracting	How personally disturbing would it be if... "You were infected with coronavirus"
11	Covid hopeful	"I have high hopes that the coronavirus situation will soon improve"
12	c_doctors_per10k	Number of doctors per 10,000 residents (Country-level; WHO)
13	Date	Date of survey participation (March 19-May 25).
14	c_confirmed	Number of confirmed coronavirus infections (Country-level; Johns Hopkins CSSE)
15	c_political stability	Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism (Country-level; WGI)
16	Focus_present	Temporal focus on the present moment
17	Focus_future	Temporal focus on the future
18	Online_immigrants	Days of online (virtual) contact with immigrants in the past week
19	c_deaths	Number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths (Country-level; Johns Hopkins CSSE)
20	Contact friends	Days of in-person (face-to-face) contact with friends & relatives in the past week
21	c_recovered	Number of confirmed COVID-19 recoveries (Country-level; Johns Hopkins CSSE)
22	c_ghs	Global health security index: pandemic preparedness and health security (Country-level). Source: Global Health Sec. Index
23	Conspiracy	Generic conspiracy beliefs (3 items)
24	Societal discontent	Concern about direction of society (3 items)
25	Online friends	Days of online (virtual) contact with friends & relatives in the past week
26	Econ. Restrictive measures	Support for extraordinary governmental intervention in economy (3 items)
27	c_govt. effectiveness	Government effectiveness (Country-level; WGI)
28	Covid knowledge	"How knowledgeable are you about the situation regarding the coronavirus?"
29	Leave for work	"In the past week, how often did you leave your house for work?"
30	c_stringency	Government COVID response tracker, measured across 17 policy indicators (Country-level): Source: OxCGR